

# News Release



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## McPEEK LOOKS AHEAD TO STARS OF TOMORROW WITH SIGNALMAN, RESTLESS RIDER

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018)** – It arguably has been one of the most difficult meets of veteran trainer **Kenny McPeek**'s 34-year career with the passing of exercise rider **Odanis Acuna** last Saturday. But the lifelong horseman hopes to move forward into next weekend's Stars of Tomorrow II program with talented juveniles **Signalman** and **Restless Rider** in the \$200,000 Kentucky Jockey Club (Grade II) and \$200,000 Golden Rod (GI), respectively.

"Moving forward we still need to remember and cherish the life of Odanis," McPeek said. "It's been such a tragic week for our entire operation. The racing community really stepped up and donated more than \$100,000 to the [Go Fund Me page](#) that will help his wife and children for the future."

Looking ahead to Saturday's Stars of Tomorrow II program at Churchill Downs, McPeek hopes Breeders' Cup Juvenile third Signalman and Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (GI) runner-up Restless Rider can help the stable slowly move forward.

"We're really excited about both of these horses in their own rights," McPeek said. "Signalman, which was a very inexpensive purchase (\$32,000 at the 2017 Fasig Tipton October Sale), is a really big, strong colt. When he drew the outside post in the Juvenile, I told **Brian (Hernandez Jr.)** to just take back to find a spot at the rail. I thought he ran a very credible race with the way the track was playing and can only improve from that in the Jockey Club.

"Restless Rider ran great in the Juvenile Fillies behind **Jaywalk**, who won wire to wire. She definitely has the potential to make the Kentucky Oaks in the future. She reminds me a lot of **Take Charge Lady** and should only get better into next year."

Signalman, who stands more than 17 hands tall according to McPeek, finished second behind **Knicks Go** in the Oct. 6 Breeders' Futurity (GI) at Keeneland prior to his third-place effort at 60-1 in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile.

"Distance should definitely not be a problem for him," McPeek continued. "He'll get a break after the Kentucky Jockey Club and point to starts as a 3-year-old in the Derby prep races."

Restless Rider trounced the competition by 11 1/4 lengths in the Debutante Stakes in late June at Churchill Downs after getting stopped entering the far turn. The Distorted Humor filly then finished second in the Spinaway (GI) at Saratoga before winning the Alcibiades (GI) by 2 1/2 lengths at Keeneland.

"Just like Signalman, Restless Rider will also get a little bit of a break after this race," McPeek said. "We're on our home court so we decided to take a chance to run right back here in the Golden Rod."

The 12-race Stars of Tomorrow II program has launched the careers of many Grade I winners and champions including 2017 Horse of the Year **Gun Runner**, 2010 Kentucky Derby winner **Super Saver** and 2012 Clark Handicap hero **Shackleford**.

Entries for Saturday's program will be taken on Wednesday.

**CHEF DANIELSON AND TEAM READY FOR THANKSGIVING TRADITION AT CHURCHILL DOWNS** – With more than 3,000 pounds of turkey ready to be carved, alongside all of the fixings, Thanksgiving Day at Churchill Downs has been a Louisville, Ky. tradition for nearly a half-century.

"It's probably our busiest day of the year outside of Derby Week and the Breeders' Cup," said Levy Restaurants' **David Danielson**, the Executive Chef at Churchill Downs. "We start preparing the meal months in advance to ensure we have enough food to serve everyone attending. Since we have to order so much food, especially turkeys, we have to start planning our shipments months ahead of time."

Danielson, alongside a team of several hundred chefs, will begin cooking the Thanksgiving meal early Thursday around 1 a.m. The menu, according to Danielson, consists of preparing nearly 3,200 pounds of turkey, 2,400 pounds of spiral ham, 2,500 pounds of red potatoes, 2,200 pounds of sweet potatoes, 1,000 pounds of butter, 2,700 pounds of green beans, 1,000 pies and 700 pounds of cranberry jelly.

"By Wednesday most of the items are prepped and ready to cook," Danielson said. "This is one of my favorite times of the year at the track because of how many families come out to enjoy Thanksgiving together."

The first year that Churchill Downs raced on Thanksgiving Day was 1969. Around 8,000 turkey dinners will be served with all the trimmings, making it the largest number anywhere in the region.

Thursday's first race begins early at 11:30 a.m. EST. The 12-race card includes the \$200,000 Falls City Handicap (Grade II) and \$100,000 Cardinal Handicap (Grade III), and wraps up at 4:50 p.m.

**DIVINE MISS GREY MADE ODDS-ON 3-5 MORNING LINE FAVORITE IN FALLS CITY** – East-coast invader **Divine Miss Grey** hopes to record her second victory of the month at Churchill Downs as the heavy 3-5 morning line choice in Thursday's \$200,000 Falls City Handicap (Grade II).

Trained by New York-based **Danny Gargan**, Divine Miss Grey (22-11-5-1—\$807,672) rallied from just off the early pace in the Chilukki to defeat four rivals as the 4-5 favorite. The Kentucky-bred filly previously finished second by 3 1/4 lengths in Belmont Park's \$400,000 Beldame Invitational (GI) on Oct. 6 after winning the \$182,000 Dr. James Penny Memorial Stakes at Parx by 7 3/4 lengths in September.

"I'm likely going to send 30 horses to Lexington next spring," Gargan said. "So, hopefully we'll be (at Churchill Downs) a lot more next year with horses like this one."

The complete field for the Falls City Handicap (with jockey, trainer, assigned weight and morning line odds): Divine Miss Grey (Tyler Gaffalione, Gargan, 122 pounds, 3-5); **Mannerly** (Julien Leparoux, Brendan Walsh, 117, 6-1); **Dutch Parrot** (Ricardo Santana Jr., Will VanMeter, 116, 12-1); **Skeptic** (Brian Hernandez Jr., Rusty Arnold II, 116, 12-1); **Dreamcall** (Albarado, Asmussen, 119, 6-1); **Prado's Sweet Ride** (Florent Geroux, Chris Block, 118, 10-1); **Honor Ride** (Corey Lanerie, Grant Forster, 114, 20-1); **Red Dane** (Edgar Morales, Charlie LoPresti, 116, 10-1).

Thanksgiving's renewal of the Falls City is scheduled as the 11<sup>th</sup> event on a 12-race program that begins with a special first race post time of 11:30 a.m. (all times EST). The Falls City shares the holiday racing spotlight with the 45th running of the \$100,000 Cardinal Handicap (GIII) for fillies and mares 3-year-olds and up at 1 1/8 miles on the Matt Winn Turf Course. The Falls City has a scheduled post time of 4:22 p.m., while the Cardinal Handicap is set for 3:24 p.m.

**THANKSGIVING WEEKEND STAKES TAKING SHAPE** – Six graded stakes races cumulatively worth \$1.4 million highlight closing week of the 21-day Fall Meet at Churchill Downs. Below are the probable entrants to Saturday's Stars of Tomorrow II program which will be drawn Wednesday, according to Assistant Racing Secretary and Stakes Coordinator **Dan Bork**:

**Saturday, Nov. 24 (Stars of Tomorrow II)**

The \$200,000 Kentucky Jockey Club (GII) – for 2-year-olds run at 1 1/16 miles: **Blue Steel** (Dale Romans); **Current** (Todd Pletcher); **Dunph** (Mike Maker); **Kentucky Allstar** (Maker); **King for a Day** (Todd Pletcher); **Manny Wah** (Wayne Catalano); **Mick's Star** (Tom Amoss); **Plus Que Parfait** (Brendan Walsh); **Roiland** (Amoss); **Royal Urn** (Michelle Nihei); **Signalman** (Kenny McPeek); **Synthesis** (Keith Desormeaux).

The \$200,000 Golden Rod (GII) – for 2-year-old fillies run at 1 1/16 miles: **Champagne Anyone** (Ian Wilkes); **Gold Credit** (Ignacio Correas); **High Regard** (Vicki Oliver); **Liora** (Wayne Catalano); **Meadow Dance** (Brad Cox); **Princess Causeway** (Wilkes); **Reflect** (Keith Desormeaux); **Restless Rider** (Kenny McPeek).

**DOWN THE STRETCH** – Racing continued Sunday with a first post of 1 p.m. (all times Eastern). There is a massive \$173,820 carryover in the 20-cent Single 6 Jackpot which gets underway in Race 5 at 3:03 p.m. ... Trainer **Brad Cox** is one win away from 1,000-career victories. Cox had three horses entered at Churchill Downs and two at Fair Grounds on Sunday. ... The first of four Kentucky Derby Future Wagers will get underway Thursday-Sunday along with the Kentucky Derby Sire Future Wager. The fields will be announced Monday. For more information, visit: <https://bit.ly/2j6m0qy>.

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